

## ***Summary***

The thesis, “Prayer: The Role, Place and Significance of Prayer in the Lives of Members of the Christian Community” deals with the topics outlined in its title. It is examined from the standpoint which understands prayer in its Biblical context, as well as how it has been interpreted by the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren tradition. The core of the thesis is made up of qualitative research. The goal of the research is to discover how prayer is perceived by believers within a particular Christian community: what place prayer occupies in their lives, what shapes it, what it contributes to them and, at the same time, how they perceive prayer and what kind of meaning corporate prayer has for them. Five deep, semi-structured conversations with research participants helped to achieve the goal of the thesis. The results of the qualitative analyses are presented in several chapters, of which four main chapters contain (1) the benefits of prayer in understanding oneself, and (2) in understanding and perceiving God, (3) prayer as a tool for service, and (4) benefits and deficits connected with prayer. The concluding chapters then summarize the results found in the answers to the survey questions, and further on there is a discussion presented on the understanding of prayer as perceived through the lens of the original interpretation introduced above. The responses are critically examined and possible suggestions for further practice are proposed.

## ***Key words***

Prayer, God, man, fellowship, service, benefits of prayer